

Technical progress in UK on HLA

18th AMG meeting

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RTI Lite : rational

- Long term research into distributed simulation and frameworks
- HLA and RTI seen as central to MoD's needs
- Lack of RTI implementations
 - research prototype wanted for carrying on work in causal synchronisation
 - support for UK industrial companies without conflicts
 - STOW version available but no time management or version on Windows NT platform

RTI Lite development

- Centralised RTI
- Based around CORBA (Orbix)
 - different from 0.X series as only one object
- CORBA IDL interface with C++ veneer wrapper
- Windows NT and Solaris versions
- Used by FlasHLAmp protofeds
 - real time DIS based federates
 - causal analysis federates (C++ & SmallTalk models)

RTI Lite : Performance?

Issues raised

- IDL specification difficult to pin down
 - version in 1.1 inconsistent with C++
 - Having RTI executive makes join/destroy simpler
 - One ways calls to federate used rather than Cap startTick()
- Semantics of RTI unclear
 - used STOW RTI (and 0.33) to guess functionality
 - Usage cases important

Federation development

- Two federations - two FOMs
 - Warfighting using RPR FOM (Graham Shanks in FlasHLAmp)
 - Analysis developing own FOM - simple initially
 - (are there US equivalent programmes from ALSP?)
 - class filtering versus filter spaces
- Questions over federation initialisation
 - how to get start conditions to models from a controller
 - using interactions or ownership transfer
- Typing of RTI data
 - can typing be passed with data to identify it at runtime for loggers and analysers, etc

Federation development issues

■ Time management

- most UK companies unaware of distributed causal simulation and naive about issues like lookahead
- Want to look at Cooperative Acceleration further to solve time creep problem

■ Ownership management

- how to manage two federates publishing different attributes of the same object.
- Who publishes it, do you transfer parts, how can this promote reuseability?

Future work

- HLA Education/demonstration day
 - possible US representative
- RTI Lite v2 (UK-RTI)
 - distributed version with ownership management
 - Cooperative acceleration algorithm implementation
- Future collaboration with US
 - Testing and HLA compliance studies
 - Possible sabbatical visitor in 97-98